

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01978 021115Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3340

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: QADHAAFI'S MEETINGS WITH ASU: A DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS

1. AS SCHEDULED, QADHAAFI MET ON JUNE 30 WITH ASU  
PARLIAMENTARY BODY AND ON JULY 1 WITH ASU CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ASU LEADERSHIPS. AS REPORTED  
BY CAIRO PRESS, SADAT INTRODUCED QADHAAFI TO PARLIAMEN-  
TARY BODY BY CALLING FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION AND FRANK  
DIALOGUE, WITH FRAMEWORK OF TWO PRINCIPLES. THE  
FIRST WAS THAT LIBYAN REVOLUTION IS AN EXTENSION OF  
THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION. THE SECOND, HE SAID, "IS  
THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA...  
IS ONE OF DESTINY, WHATEVER FORM IT MAY EVENTUALLY  
TAKE. AS I SAID IN TRIPOLI, THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA IS ONE OF DESTINY WHETHER OR NOT  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01978 021115Z

THERE IS UNITY." QADHAAFI REPORTEDLY THEN TOOK THE

STAND TO EXPLAIN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, THIRD THEORY, POPULAR COMMITTEES, ETC.

2. JULY 2 PRESS REPORTING ON QADHAAFI'S MEETING THE DAY BEFORE WITH ASU POLITICAL LEADERSHIPS IS UNUSUALLY REVEALING ABOUT RESERVE WITH WHICH HIS VIEWS ON UNITY WERE GREETED. AS BEFORE, SADAT INTRODUCED QADHAAFI WITH APPEAL FOR FRANK AN SERIOUS DIALOGUE. WHEN MEETING WAS OPENED FOR DISCUSSION, VARIOUS EGYPTIAN SPOKE IN APPRECIATION OF UNITY BUT EACH, AS REPORTED, HAD RESERVATIONS. ONE NOTED NEED TO GO SLOWLY, USING LESSONS OF SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN UNION; HE ADDED THAT THE MERGER SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED AS SCHEDULED, BUT SHOULD NOT BE FULL MERGER AT FIRST. A SECOND SPEAKER FELT THAT UNITY SHOULD BEGIN WITH A CONFEDERAL STATE, NOT ONE TOTALLY UNIFIED. A THIRD ASKED FOR THE REMOVAL OF OBSTANCES TO UNITY, SUCH AS THE MALTREATMENT OF EGYPTIANS IN LIBYA, BEFORE MERGER OCCURRED. IN REPLY, QADHAAFI REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO INSIST ON FULL POLITICAL UNITY. HIS BASIC THESIS WAS THAT MERGER MUST BE ESTABLISHED, AND THAT ANYTHING SHORT OF FULL MERGER WAS INSUFFICIENT.

3. ON EVENING OF JULY 1, QADHAAFI HELD ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE. CONDUCTED THIS TIME AT AKHBAR AL-YAWM, CONFERENCE WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY JALLUD (WHO ARRIVED ON SAME DAY), RCC MEMBERS AL-HUNI AND MUHAYSHI, AND BY QADHAAFI'S INFORMATION SECRETARY AHMAD AL-MAQSABI. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST WHO WAS PRESENT, MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PERSONS ATTENDED IN ANTICIPATION OF A RERUN OF LAST THURSDAY'S DRAMA (CAIRO 1954). IN FACT, QADHAAFI MADE CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT COMMUNISM, TRIED TO EXPLAIN CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND EVINCED SOME PETULANCE AT RELUCTANCE OF EGYPTIANS TO ACCEPT FULL MERGER, BUT PRESENTATION WAS REPORTEDLY STANDARD.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHERE MATTERS ARE LEADING. BOTH EGYPTIANS AND QADAAFI ARE TREADING WELL-WORN PATHS, WITH FORMER CAUTIONING AGAINST UNDUE HASTE IN APPROACHING MERGER, WHILE LATTER CONTINUES

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 01978 021115Z

TO PUSH AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR COMPLETE UNITY AS SOON AS IT CAN BE ARRANGED. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT QADHAAFI'S FUNDAMENTAL VIEWS HAVE NOT BEEN ALTERED BY PAST TWELVE DAYS OF EXPOSURE TO EGYPTIANS AT ALL LEVELS. IF ANY CHANGE HAS OCCURRED, IT MAY BE ON PART OF EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES AS RESULT OF CLOSER EXPOSURE TO QADHAAFI. STRONG NOTE OF RELUCTANCE ABOUT MERGER THAT HAS CREPT INTO CAIRO PRESS OVER WEEKEND, GENERALLY NEGATIVE

TONE OF ASU COMMENTARY ON QADHAAFI'S VIEWS, AND  
SADAT'S OWN STATEMENT ABOUT "WHETHER OR NOT THERE  
IS UNITY," SUGGEST THAT HARD DECISIONS STILL LIE AHEAD.  
WILEY

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